

In the Claims

Kindly amend the claims to read as follows:

1. (currently amended) A process for the preparation of Gabapentin Form- II comprising ~~the~~ steps of:

~~Reaction of the reacting~~ 1,1-cyclohexane di acetic acid mono amide with ~~an~~ alkali hypo halite solution at a temperature of about -10°C to about 5°C, followed by acidification with sulphuric acid in presence of ~~an~~ first organic solvent-1;

~~Extraction of extracting~~ the formed sulphate salt ~~into an organic layer~~ with ~~a second~~ organic solvent-2 ;

~~Separation of separating~~ the organic layer, ~~followed by drying the layer~~ over dehydrating agents :-;

~~Addition of adding~~ an ante solvent to precipitate the ~~formed~~ hemisulphate hemihydrate salt followed by its isolation;

~~Dissolution of dissolving~~ the hemisulphate hemihydrate salt in a short chain alcohol ~~and~~

~~Separation of the separating any insolubles if any from the salt solution to form a salt solution filtrate:~~

~~Neutralization of neutralizing~~ the filtrate with a base at temperature of about 70°C to liberate the free amino acid;

~~Isolation of isolating~~ the liberated free amino acid by cooling, leaving the formed byproduct base-salt in the mother liquor / solvent;

~~Separation of separating~~ the formed Gabapentin Form-II ~~followed by~~ pPurification of the product by slurring in ethanol at temperature of about 60°C - 70°C; ~~and~~

~~Recovery of recovering~~ the final product by filtering and drying to obtain Gabapentin Form-II having sulphate ions less than 100 ppm with respect to Gabapentin.

2. (currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first organic solvent-~~1~~ is selected from n-Butanol, MIBIC, methyl ethyl ketone and THF, ~~the preferred solvent being n-Butanol.~~

3. (currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the second organic solvent ~~-2 for extraction of hemi sulphate hemihydrate salt~~ is selected from n-Butanol, MIBK, THF and methyl ethyl ketone, ~~the preferred solvent being n-Butanol.~~

4. (currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein drying of ~~the~~ organic layer is carried out over dehydrating agents ~~such as anhydrous sodium sulphate and anhydrous magnesium sulphate and anhydrous calcium sulphate the preferred ones being anhydrous sodium sulphate or anhydrous magnesium sulphate.~~

5. (currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ante solvent is selected from acetone, toluene, n-hexane, and ~~Di~~ isopropyl ether.

6. (original) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the short chain alcohol is ethanol and n-Butanol.

7. (currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the base is selected from ~~Di~~ isopropyl ethylamine, and triethylamine.

8. (original) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the neutralization temperature is in the range of 65°C - 75°C.

9. (currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the purification of Gabapentin is done by slurring in ethanol in the temperature range 65°C — 70°C.

10. (original) Crystalline Gabapentin hemisulphate hemihydrate characterized by powder x-ray diffraction peaks at 2-theta 6.8, 13.7, 17.0, 18.0, 20.2, 20.6, 24.2, 24.6, 26.2, 26.8, 27.7, 29.9, 30.8, 34.0, and 34.7 degrees.

11. (original) Crystalline Gabapentin hemisulphate hemihydrate characterized by infra-red absorptions having peaks at 686, 757, 901, 917, 986, 1127, 1142, 1200, 1282, 1315, 1430, 1462, 1525, 1580 and 1714 cm^{-1} .

12. (currently amended) A process for the preparation of Gabapentin hemisulphate hemihydrate comprising the steps of:

~~Reaction of the reacting~~ 1,1-cyclohexane di acetic acid mono amide with ~~an~~ alkali hypo halite solution at temperature of about -10°C to about 5°C , followed by acidification with sulphuric acid in presence of an first organic solvent-1;

~~-Extraction of extracting~~ the formed sulphate salt into an organic layer with a second organic solvent-2;

~~Separation of separating~~ the organic layer, and drying it over dehydrating agents;

~~Addition of adding~~ an ante solvent to the organic layer to precipitate the a hemisulphate hemihydrate salt followed by its isolation; and

~~Isolation of isolating and drying~~ the Gabapentin hemisulphate hemihydrate.

~~-Drying of the Gabapentin hemisulphate hemihydrate~~

13. (currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 12, wherein the first organic solvent-1 is selected from n-Butane, MIBK, methyl ethyl ketone and THF, ~~the preferred solvent being n-Butanol.~~

14. (currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 12, wherein the second organic solvent-2 ~~for extraction of hemi-sulphate hemihydrate salt is selected from~~ n-Butanol, MIBK, THF and methyl ethyl ketone, ~~the preferred solvent being n-Butanol.~~

15. (currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 12, wherein the

drying of ~~the~~ organic layer is carried out over dehydrating agents ~~such as anhydrous sodium sulphate and anhydrous magnesium sulphate and anhydrous calcium sulphate~~ the preferred ones being anhydrous sodium sulphate or anhydrous magnesium sulphate.

16. (currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 12, wherein the ante solvent is selected from acetone, toluene, n-hexane, and ~~Di~~ isopropyl ether.

17. (currently amended) ~~A process as claimed in claim 12, wherein the~~ drying of the Gabapentin hemisulphate hemihydrate ~~in~~ is at a temperature range of 50-60°C.

18. (cancelled)